Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/8/2022 11:36:48 AM
First name: Jody
Last name: Conophy
Organization:
Title:
Comments: The Crazy Mountains are a special and unique place in Montana. I appreciate your efforts to address the public and private checkerboarding.

But I request that, as a condition of the land exchange, conservation easements are put on public lands going into private ownership. Without easements in place, there is no guarantee that existing low-elevation wildlife habitat will stay intact. Consolidation could end up harming wildlife by opening the door to private development within the existing Forest boundary. Please include easements as a condition of the exchange, as you did for the South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange.

In addition, the Forest Service should retain public and administrative access claims to sections 7, 8 and 10 in Sweetgrass drainage. Relinquishing these claims sets a dangerous precedent for access disputes and gets ahead of litigation that is currently under appeal.

We have all seen how development is changing the face of Montana. Please don't allow wealthy developers to make changes to public lands, all in the name of financial profits.